

## Obituaries

*'I don't think there's any name more associated with Oregon State football than Andros.'*

**Hal Cowan**, Oregon State sports information director



Associated Press

### DEE ANDROS

*In addition to coaching the Beavers for 10 years, he served as athletic director at the university for 10 years and later as a fund-raiser.*

## Dee Andros, 79; Was Football Coach at Oregon State

By ELLIOTT TEAFORD  
Times Staff Writer

Dee Andros, longtime football coach and athletic director at Oregon State University, died Wednesday at the age of 79. He had suffered from diabetes and had had several strokes, a university spokesman said.

Andros was perhaps best-known for leading the "Giant Killers," as his 1967 team was called, to victory over eventual national champion USC, which was led by running back O.J. Simpson. Oregon State also defeated second-ranked Purdue and tied UCLA, finishing the '67 season with a 7-2-1 record.

"It's a tremendous loss," Hal Cowan, Oregon State's sports information director, said of Andros' death. "He's a great ambassador for Oregon sports, he's touched a lot of people past and present. I don't think there's any name more associated with Oregon State football than Andros."

Andros coached the Beavers from 1965 to 1975, then served as athletic director for the next 10 years, until his retirement.

Nicknamed "the Great Pumpkin" because he was overweight and wore a jacket in the bright orange of Oregon State, Andros also worked as a fund-raiser for the school's athletic department. Late in his life, after undergoing open-heart surgery and losing weight, Andros joked that he had become "the Little Squash."

"Dee is one of the reasons

why people love Oregon State so much," football Coach Mike Riley said of Andros, whose full name was Demosthenes Konstandies Andreopoulos.

"We are all proud to represent a university and team that Coach Andros has been associated with for 40 years," he said.

Born in Oklahoma, Andros was a lineman for the Sooners under legendary University of Oklahoma Coach Bud Wilkinson.

He got his start in coaching as one of Wilkinson's assistants. He later became the head coach at Idaho before coaching at Oregon State.

Andros served in World War II in the Marines, earning the Bronze Star. He spent more than a month under fire on Iwo Jima and witnessed the famous moment when six Marines raised the American flag on the Pacific island.

He is survived by his wife, Luella; daughter, Jeanna; and grandson, Nicky.

*Times wire services contributed to this report.*

### Finding News Obituaries

Looking for an obituary that appeared in The Times last week? You can still find it on the Internet. Go to The Times' Web site at [www.latimes.com/obits](http://www.latimes.com/obits).

By RICHARD CROMELIN  
Times Staff Writer

Elliott Smith, a singer-songwriter whose musically seductive, emotionally dark recordings made him one of the most acclaimed cult artists of the past decade — and an unlikely Oscar contender in 1998 — died Tuesday.

Smith, 34, was discovered in his Echo Park apartment with a self-inflicted knife wound and died at County-USC Medical Center, according to the Los Angeles County coroner's office.

In a series of albums beginning in 1994, Smith established himself as an evocative poet of the tormented soul, pairing scenarios of romantic loss, existential bleakness and the curse of addiction with engaging, lilting melodies. His spare guitar accompaniment and the eerie, echo-like quality of his vocals reinforced the music's bitter-sweet mood.

Though his record sales were modest, Smith enjoyed tremendous respect from his peers and from critics, emerging as his generation's preeminent exponent of the singer-songwriter tradition.

Though he was stereotyped as a gloomy, introspective artist, Smith had broader aims.

"I don't really have any goals as a songwriter, other than to show what it's like to be a person — just like everybody else who's ever played music does," Smith said in a 1998 Los Angeles Times interview. "I don't feel like my songs are particularly fragile or revealing."

"They're songs. It's not like a diary, and they're not intended to be any sort of super intimate confessional singer-songwriterish thing. I like the Beatles. Dylan. The Saints and the Clash. All the good things about what they did or do is probably the same things that I'm trying to do."

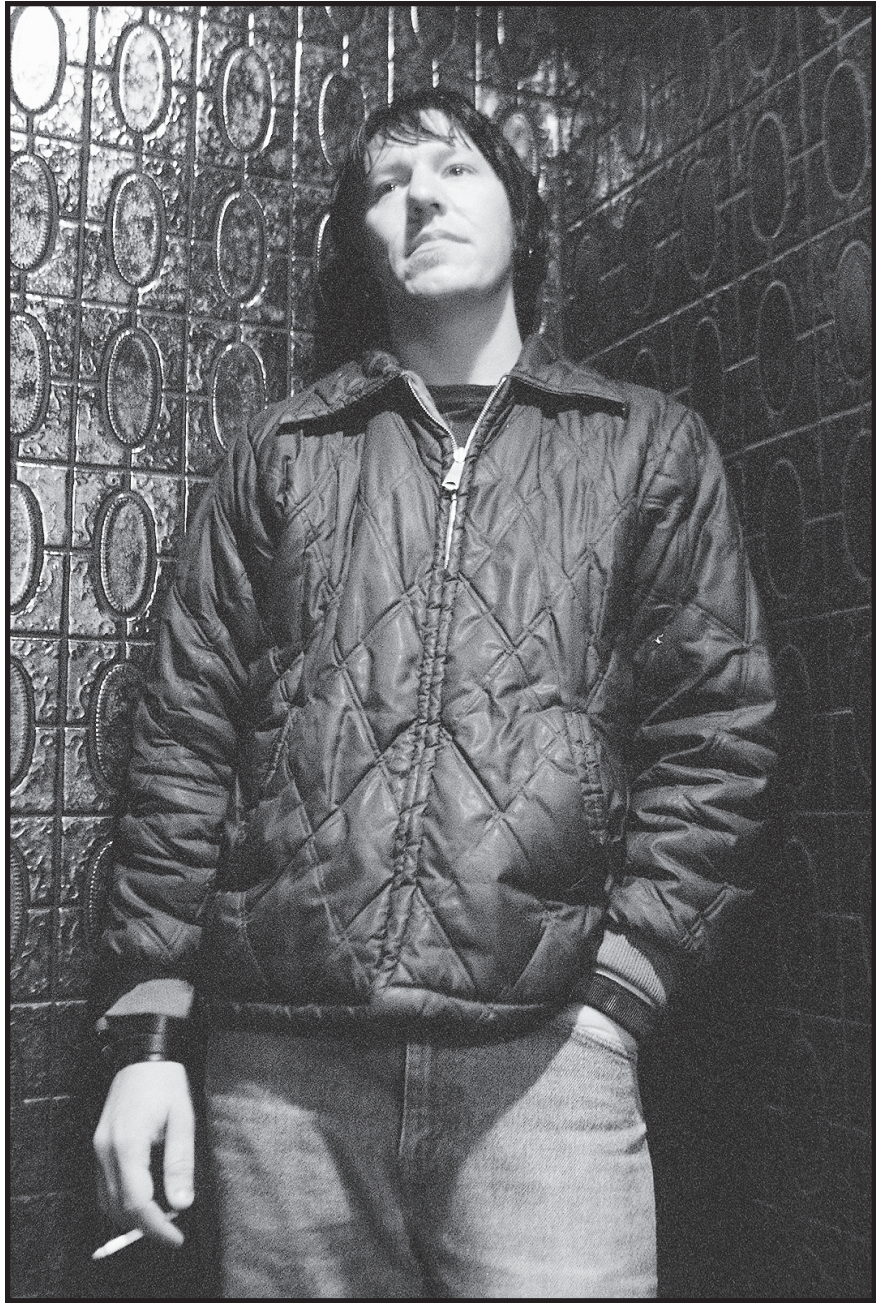
Friends and colleagues agreed Wednesday that there was more to Smith — who had been nearing completion of a new album when he died — than his image as a downbeat troubadour.

"He was incredibly funny and sweet, intellectually rigorous, someone who really cared about the people around him," said Luke Wood, an executive at DreamWorks Records who had worked with Smith for five years. "I really felt he was in a very positive, forward-thinking place. He really wanted to get his record out early next year."

Rob Schnapf, who co-produced his last two albums, said Smith "was a dignified, gentle person and a great artist. I loved making records with him," he said. "It was extremely rewarding and we had fun."

But the demons Smith wrote about weren't fictional. "All that stuff is real," Schnapf said. "That was no game, that was not a marketing idea. That was real stuff."

Steve Hanft, a filmmaker who directed an experimental short for Smith called "Strange Parallel" and enlisted Smith to do music for his new movie, "Southlander," said he saw the singer five



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

### ELLIOTT SMITH

*"I don't really have any goals as a songwriter, other than to show what it's like to be a person. . . . I don't feel like my songs are particularly fragile or revealing."*

days ago.

"He just seemed like he was imploding on himself," Hanft said. "He was still really sweet and nice and really smart, but he just seemed like he was starting to cave in physically. He just wasn't happy."

Steven Paul Smith was born in Nebraska and spent his early childhood in the Dallas area, living with his mother and stepfather and the latter's children. At 14, he moved to Portland, Ore., to live with his biological father and his family. After graduating from Hampshire College in Massachusetts with a degree in political philosophy, he returned to Portland and embarked on a period of difficult relationships, heavy drinking and a musical career.

He played in a punk-rock band called Heatmiser, but increasingly concentrated on solo material in a more reflective style. In 1994, he released his first album, "Roman Candle," on the local Cavity Search label. He followed it with two albums for the Seattle-based Kill Rock Stars label and began drawing critical notice and a small but intense and growing audience.

Smith toured extensively

and relocated to Brooklyn. In 1997, director Gus Van Sant prominently deployed five songs from Smith's albums in his film "Good Will Hunting," and introduced one new one — "Miss Misery," which was nominated for an Academy Award for best original song. That led to the odd sight of the reticent troubadour performing in a white suit on the gala 1998 Oscars telecast, in competition with the likes of Celine Dion and Michael Bolton.

Smith signed with the prominent Los Angeles label DreamWorks, and with a bigger budget he began to enhance his sound with orchestral pop elements.

"When you listen to it, it's very easily digestible," said Schnapf, the co-producer of his two DreamWorks albums, "XO" and "Figure 8."

"He made it look really easy. He was a great musician in an understated way. A lot of times you couldn't take apart his songs. They were this puzzle, this intricate little puzzle."

Schnapf cited in particular "Independence Day."

"The record company had said it would be great if we could get that chorus that only comes in at the end, if we

could have it come sooner," Schnapf said. "And I remember saying, 'Well, it's a metaphor about turning into a butterfly. You can't turn into a butterfly twice.'"

Though Smith was disappointed that his records weren't more successful — "XO," his bestseller, sold 224,000 copies — he became a popular live performer, filling such theaters as the Wiltern in Los Angeles.

Through it all, he continued to struggle with depression and alcoholism. There was a suicide attempt in 1997 and a stay at a psychiatric hospital. But recent reports had been upbeat.

"On the addiction issues, I think he'd really gotten the upper hand on them," said DreamWorks' Wood. "I can say in all honesty, the last few months Elliott has been sober and was focused. Sobriety was a major thing for him, because it was the path to how he was going to close out his record."

Wood added, "He was a complex individual. One of his lyrics that I always loved is from 'Say Yes,' where he says, 'A happy day and then you pay.' Love and loss are tied that way for him. . . . Life was an ongoing struggle to find a way to deal with the beauty of life and also the brutality he saw. He felt those things very seriously."

## King/Drew May Have to Stop Training

[Hospital, from Page B1]

"There's a great deal of incompetence and mismanagement at the hospital, and it has to be corrected by the county," said state Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally (D-Compton), who heads a special legislative panel on King/Drew. "Some heads have to roll."

Dr. Thomas Garthwaite, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, said the hospital is now in a "very precarious" position. "We need to change the direction things are headed."

News of the accrediting council's proposed action also intensified calls for UCLA to step in and help run the beleaguered training programs before they are lost.

"They just have to quickly determine that things have reached a level of crisis that warrant extraordinary intervention," said Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles), a member of the legisla-

tive panel on King/Drew. "UCLA needs to take a more active role."

A spokesman at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, which runs the hospital's training programs, would not comment in detail, saying that no final action has been taken and that it has not yet received a written report from the accrediting council.

The most immediate effect of the council's proposed "unfavorable" rating is that the hospital won't be able to apply to begin new radiology and surgery training programs. An institution must have a favorable rating to open new programs.

That means that about 45 surgical and radiology residents will have to find jobs at other hospitals by next summer. "This is it for us," said Dr. Anthony Charles, a surgical resident. "This news is obviously quite sad to us."

The accreditation council has never before closed all of the training programs at an institution, spokeswoman Julie Jacob said, but the group changed its rules last year to crack down on bad programs. Now, it is possible

to strip an institution of all training programs after two unfavorable ratings. In the past, it took three.

After a review committee upholds a hospital's second unfavorable rating, it "will propose administrative withdrawal of accreditation of the institution's programs," which may lead to their closure.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, whose district includes the hospital, said the county needs to move quickly to install a permanent administrator and medical director at King/Drew. Both jobs have been without permanent leaders for at least a year.

The county's \$13.8-million contract with Drew medical school allows the county to sever its ties if the hospital is forced to close two training programs, as is now the case. But Burke said the hospital should be given more time to fix its problems.

Still, the supervisor said, she is worried that infighting at the school over its leadership is hindering its ability to fix problems.

"I know there are people at this moment demanding that

there be a change in terms of the president of the medical school," Burke said. Although she said the county should do everything it can to help save Drew, "we can't let the hospital go down" in the meantime.

Garthwaite said the Drew school board needs to be transformed from one made up of community representatives to one familiar with running a top-notch school.

He said he is awaiting the recommendations of a task force led by former Surgeon General David Satcher on how to restructure the training programs at King/Drew. The panel will visit the hospital next month.

Dr. M. Alfred Haynes, chairman of the Drew board until earlier this month, acknowledged that the school may not have done enough to address the accrediting council's concerns. But he added that many people don't recognize the difficulty of running a teaching program to serve an indigent community and train minority doctors. "Rather than criticizing for the failures, one has to realize that they undertake a big job," he said.

# R U into 4WD?

Find the right car for you.



more Los Angeles Times